CLAIMS

1.   A method for user-related billing for transmitted programs in a
restricted-access system, the programs selected from the group consisting of
5   television, video, radio and games programs, the method comprising the steps of:
        providing a transmitting device for transmitting at least one desired
program;
        providing a service provider for releasing the at least one desired program to
be transmitted;
10   providing a control device arranged at a receiving end for controlling access
to pay programs;
        providing a television set for receiving the at least one desired program;
        setting up a telecommunications connection between the control device and
the service provider;
15   requesting, via the service provider, that an amount of money be transferred
to a credit account and that both usage identification data and the at least one
desired program be entered in the control device;
        transferring the amount of money to the credit account associated with the
usage identification data with the service provider;
20   entering the usage identification data in the control device;
        transmitting the usage identification data to the service provider;
        comparing the entered usage identification data with stored usage
identification data;
        debiting an amount of money associated with the at least one desired
25   program when the entered usage identification data and the stored usage
identification date are identical;
        allocating a key for decoding both the usage identification data and the at
least one desired program;
        transmitting the key to the control device; and

enabling a television channel with the at least one desired program, via the control device, to allow the television set to receive the at least one desired program.

5   2.   A method for user-related billing for transmitted programs in a restricted-access system as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

checking, via the service provider, whether the credit account has sufficient credit to charge for the at least one desired program.

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3.   A method for user-related billing for transmitted programs in a restricted-access system as claimed in claim 2, the method further comprising the steps of:

indicating on the control device that there is no credit in the credit account;

15 and

requesting that an amount of money be transferred to the credit account if the credit account does not have sufficient credit.

4.   A method for user-related billing for transmitted programs in a

20   restricted-access system as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

checking whether the entered usage identification data has an associated access capability to the at least one desired program.

25   5.   A method for user-related billing for transmitted programs in a restricted-access system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the usage identification data includes a user identifier and a personal identification number.

6.   A method for user-related billing for transmitted programs in a

30   restricted-access system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of requesting

further includes the steps of using a remote control and software in the control device to check what user identification data are required and which programs are being offered.

5   7.   A restricted-access system with user-related billing for transmitted programs, the programs selected from the group consisting of television, video, radio and games programs, comprising:

a transmitting device for transmitting at least one desired program;

a service provider for releasing the at least one desired program to be

10   transmitted;

a control device arranged at a receiving end for controlling access to pay programs;

a television set for receiving the at least one desired program;

a telecommunication connection between the control device and the service

15   provider;

a device for crediting and debiting an amount of money to and from, respectively, a credit account associated with user identification data with the service provider;

a device for storing a user profile which contains the user identification data;

20   a device for storing a program and a television channel profile containing available programs;

a comparison device for comparing usage identification data entered by the user and the stored usage identification data;

a device for allocating a key for decoding the usage identification data; and

25   a device for transmitting and receiving data which are transmitted between the service provider and the control device.

8.   A restricted-access system with user-related billing for transmitted programs as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

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a checking and input device for checking required detail relating to the usage identification data and to the programs, and for entering the usage identification data and the at least one desired program.

5   9. A restricted-access system with user-related billing for transmitted programs as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

a checking and input device including a remote control and software which is stored in the control device.

10   10. A restricted-access system with user-related billing for transmitted programs as claimed in claim 7, wherein the control device is arranged between the television set and an antenna device which receives the programs.